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Torrance Herald and LOMITA NEWS

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WATER ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 25

Developments Follow Tragic Crossing Crash Leech's Death Brings Four Signals; Possible Complaint

Two developments followed the tragic death of Charles Frederick Leech, 59, well known business man of this city, who passed away at the Torrance Memorial hospital shortly after he was fatally injured in an intersection collision at Normandie avenue and Carson street at 8:20 o'clock Monday morning.

The developments were: Erection of "hazard" signals at the dangerous corner by the Los Angeles Police commission the next day after Mr. Leech's death and the indication by San Pedro detectives that the woman driver, who crashed into the small truck driven by Mr. Leech, may be charged with manslaughter.

The Normandie-Carson intersection has been a dangerous spot for many months, scores of accidents occurring in that vicinity because of its deceptive safety. Two crashes Saturday and two Sunday were reported at the intersection.

The fatality Monday morning aroused a number of citizens here, among them Mayor Dennis, J. C. Smith and Police Chief G. A. Calder, with the result that Los Angeles officials had the latest warning signals in working order Tuesday afternoon.

Woman Said "Negligent" Details of the accident which cost Mr. Leech, brother of James W. Leech, manager of the Bank of Italy here, his life, were revealed at the coroner's inquest held at Stone and Myers' chapel yesterday afternoon. The verdict of the coroner's jury stated that "the death of the deceased was due to negligent driving on the part of the driver of the Ford coupe."

This was Miss Catherine Booth, 30, 146 1/2 Palm drive Beverly Hills. Funeral services for Mr. Leech were held this afternoon at 2:30 P. M. at the home of Mrs. Leech, 244 Redondo avenue, Long Beach. Interment followed at Sunnyvale Cemetery in that city. Miss Booth is confined to the Torrance Memorial hospital with a fractured clavicle, a broken rib and cuts and bruises. She is reported to be recovering. Because of her injury, Miss Booth was not present at the inquest conducted by deputy coroner J. P. Kane.

Mrs. Alice Leech, of Long Beach, wife of the accident victim, testified that her husband was born in Illinois and survived by herself, a son, Charles, a step-son, M. S. Phillips, and a brother, James W. Leech, of this city. Terrific Impact Reported Mr. Leech was driving west on Carson street, coming to Torrance to his place of business at the Torrance Bicycles and Sporting Goods shop at 1341 El Prado avenue, when he was struck by a coupe driven north on Normandie avenue by Miss Booth. The impact hurled the truck driven by Mr. Leech about 15 feet from the point of collision. Detective Lieutenant Evans, of San Pedro, testified. Both of the drivers were (Continued on Page 3)

CANDIDATES WILL SPEAK AT MEETING Another Rally To Be Held at Methodist Church Sunday Evening

Announcement is made today by Rev. R. A. Young that another mass meeting for Torrance and Lomita citizens will be held at the Methodist Episcopal church, El Prado at Normandie avenues, Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. In speaking of the rally, Rev. Young said: "Charles Lamb, noted English essayist interrupted a conversation of his friends one day and said, 'I hate your friend, because I do not know him.' Often times we do not appreciate those so-called politicians or public servants because we do not know them. That is the reason for the weekly mass meetings at the church, to enable residents in this district to know the men running for office.

Candidates to Speak "Those who heard John R. Quinn, Judge Stafford and others last Sunday night will want to hear the speakers this Sunday. We believe that our citizens should know their public officials and we should know who the candidates are and what they have to offer the public. We bring you this information at these meetings. Vote as you please." "Why Governor Young should be re-elected" will be the subject matter for discussion this Sunday. Rev. Young said. Senator C. W. Lyon, Judge John L. Fleming, Clyde Plummer, J. H. Crawford and others will be here to speak.

CHIPMUNKS WILL REPLACE BIRDS Six pairs of sprightly chipmunks will replace birds which formerly occupied the memorial bird house in front of the Torrance Elementary school when that institution opens for the fall term. Sad experience proved that the birds did not live through the winter so Mr. Wallace Post, who presented the large cage to the school in memory of his daughter, Polly, who died three years ago, will install the more hardy chipmunks.

Melon Feed Ends Summer School A grand watermelon feed for all children who have regularly attended summer school will be held at the Torrance Elementary school Friday morning, the last day of the vacation term, according to William Bell, Jr., principal. "We have had attendance of over 200 pupils daily," he said today. "The results, as seen from the examinations conducted Monday and Tuesday, have been very gratifying." The playground work will continue at least another week, Mr. Bell said. Regular school term begins September 2.

2487 Voters Qualified To Ballot Here Lomita Has 2146 Electors, County Registrar of Voters Reports

Torrance now has 2487 registered voters, according to Registrar of Voters Kerr. This is considerably larger than any previous recording. Mr. Kerr indicated, although he did not have the figures available for comparison. City Clerk Bartlett said that the last registration total was about 2000 here. The total is made up of 1850 Republicans; 513 Democrats; 11 Socialists; 20 Prohibitionists and 88 who declined to state party affiliations. Mr. Kerr also reported that 1320 voters in Torrance were males while 1157 were females.

More Women Voters Mr. Kerr reported that Lomita has 2146 electors qualified to vote at the August 26 primaries. The total is made up of 1393 Republicans; 515 Democrats, 36 Socialists; 17 Prohibitionists and 183 who declined to state their affiliations. Both cities are expected to poll the heaviest vote in their histories at the August election. Los Angeles county has 824,888 qualified electors with 459,769 of that number residing in the city of Los Angeles. The county figure, outside of Los Angeles, of 385,117 includes 183,572 females and 121,545 males.

County Agrees To Help Coast Highway Work Will Pave 30-Foot Strip on O and N Streets; All Opposition Ends Continuation of the proposed 100-foot wide Coast highway along O and N streets in Wilmington and State street in Long Beach with the aid of state, county and city funds was confidently expected this week as result of two important actions. The first was the county's agreement to pave 30 feet of the highway over O and N streets for its entire length through Wilmington. The second action was by the Wilmington frontage owners, who by a majority vote last week agreed to the State and County plan of a 100-foot wide boulevard. Assist on Viaducts This latter endorsement removed all opposition to the project in communities between Santa Monica and Seal Beach. It was reported, in addition to the paving of the 30-foot strip, the county is expected to pay for several necessary viaducts and city funds will also be obtained. It was learned here this week.

Receipt of the news that the county would participate in the work stimulated the signing of petitions for the proposed 100-foot section of the Mexico to Canada route. There is a total of more than 28,000 feet frontage of property affected. Riviera Tract To Get Illumination Because the Clifford F. Reid, Inc., subdividers are planning to install Marbelite light standards in front of their 540 acres at Hollywood Riviera, they wrote the city council this week asking for information as to the city's regulations and laws concerning ornamental street lighting systems. The council instructed City Engineer Leonard Tuesday night to reply to the company that the lights are paid from the city's general fund and that the city wants to know what number of lights are needed at the present time. This information is expected before the tax levy is made, in order that arrangements for the lighting system may be included in the 1930-31 budget.

MANY THANKS! Loyal Citizens of Torrance Make Possible Early Election on Troublesome Water Issue An Editorial By GROVER C. WHYTE

Thanks to the splendid voluntary work of W. Rufus Page and Frank Spoon, who circulated the official water election petitions, the City Council Tuesday evening was able to take the next step in calling the election on this all important civic improvement. By working long hours Mr. Page secured 325 signatures to the official petition and Mr. Spoon obtained 260. Had they had time, these two gentlemen could have easily secured three times as many signatures to the water election petition. Mr. Page says he only encountered three voters who refused to sign the petition and Mr. Spoon testifies that he met only two who would not sign. Isn't that significant of the way the people feel about this deplorable water condition? Just think of it, out of 590 voters seen in a partial house-to-house canvass, ONLY 5 voters were found to be opposed to calling the election.

The official petitions were not given Rufus Page and Frank Spoon until Friday, and by Monday morning these ardent civic workers had secured 585 signers and had filed their petitions with the City Clerk for checking. It was a splendid work on the part of these two Torrance citizens and we are sure everyone of the thousands of suffering water consumers feels grateful to Messrs. Spoon and Page for their efforts and time. Mr. Page tells of an amusing incident. In his enthusiasm to accomplish his task of getting signatures, Realty Rufus worked well into the night Saturday. On knocking at one resident's door, he was answered by "Who's there?" "It's Rufus Page and I'm circulating a petition for a new city water system," said Page.

"Well, I'm in bed, but I'll get up any time to help get better and cheaper water for Torrance," said the voter, and he came out in his pajamas and affixed his name. The City Council, the City Engineer, the City Attorney, the City Clerk, and the entire civic body are doing everything legally possible to expedite the calling of the water election! In the meantime, it may be wise to warn voters against adverse propaganda designed to discredit the construction of a municipal system, and sponsored by the private interests who have long waxed fat by charging three prices for poor water. Let the intelligent voters of Torrance withhold judgment until the complete plans for the new municipal system are published. As soon as all the information regarding the new system is available, the Torrance Herald will publish it; the financing plan, the water development, purification, and distribution. Everything will be clearly explained long before you will be asked to vote upon the issue. In the meantime, don't listen to hearsay and rumors.

Recognition of the valuable and voluntary work done by other public spirited citizens in circulating the earlier petitions should also be made, for had it not been for the timely activities of this group of loyal Torrance citizens, the issue might have lagged. Water consumers should be grateful to Guy Mowry, Joe Stone, W. Rufus Page, Frank Spoon, Vonderahe Brothers, F. Burmeister, Earl Conner, W. A. Tegarden, Michael Strasser, and others, all of whom helped in circulating the original petitions which prompted the City Council to take immediate action. If the loyal citizens of Torrance will band together and get out the vote September 25, Torrance will enjoy better and cheaper water. Let's pull together and once and for all remove the handicap of poor water and high rates. We can do it, and do it easily, with the splendid sort of support already exhibited.

DAHLIA SHOW IS GIVEN AT GARDEN CLUB Agricultural Commissioner Lectures on Pests at Meeting

One of the most interesting and informative talks given before the Torrance District Garden Club this year was made Monday evening when G. R. Gorton, deputy agricultural commissioner of Los Angeles County, was the speaker of the evening. A club dahlia show was held following Mr. Gorton's talk. Mr. Gorton illustrated his lecture about insect pests with slides showing the various varieties of the pests that are enemies of garden beauty. The chewing pest may be controlled by a spray that adheres to the leaves of the plant so that the insect will be poisoned when he eats the leaf, and the sucking insect must be exterminated by a contact spray that will kill the pest outright, he said.

Inspects Granite Mr. Gorton gave some interesting data about the work of the department, stating that in 1929 Los Angeles County made 75,000 inspections, which included 10,000-000 plants and trees. He said that Los Angeles County is the richest county in the nation, agriculturally speaking, and that none of the most destructive pests were prevalent here. In 1929 farm products in the State brought revenue amounting to \$500,000,000. Oil, which is considered by many to be the chief industry of the State is the nearest competitor, yet it brought revenue amounting to only \$280,000,000.

The speaker commented on the care taken by the agricultural department to keep pests out of the State. He told that every block of granite and marble coming from the New England states was carefully inspected before it was admitted. This precaution is taken because frequently the eggs of the terrible gypsy moth pest are (Continued on Next Page)

State Voters To Decide On Many Measures Nov. 4 Four Initiative Measures and 21 Amendments Are On Ballot SACRAMENTO, (UP)—Voters of California will be called to decide upon four initiative measures and 21 constitutional amendments at the general election November 4. There will be no referendum taken on any act of the 1929 legislature. With the closing date for filing initiative measures past, only four had actually won a place on the ballot, according to Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan. A number of others fell by the wayside for lack of signatures. Permanent Registration The lucky measures were: Sunday closing law for barbers, giving the tonsorialists "one day's rest in seven;" daylight saving law, which would set clocks forward one hour from April to September of each year; permanent registration, providing that a voter's name shall remain on the books so long as he votes regularly or does not move from one precinct to another, and usury law amendment, forbidding corporations to charge treble interest and requiring legislature to regulate pawnbrokers. Two Bond Issues Among the measures failing to qualify for the ballot were those proposing repeal of the Wright Act, California's "Little Volstead Law;" resumption of hydraulic mining; increasing chiropractors' educational requirements from two to three years; and giving the State Fish and Game Commission legislative powers. Two bond issues are among the 21 constitutional amendments before the voters for ratification. One of these, for \$20,000,000, is designed to complete the state's farm and home loan program, which has already aided more than 7,500 ex-soldiers, sailors and marines. The other, for \$10,000,000, would supply funds for much-needed improvements on San Francisco harbor, owned by the state.

PETITIONS CARRY MORE THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF SIGNERS Council Expected To Pass Ordinance Next Tuesday Calling for Special Election To End Water Controversy; 585 Names on Last Petition

Next Tuesday night the city council is expected to pass the ordinance calling for a special election to be held Thursday, September 25, on whether or not Torrance is to have a publicly-owned and operated water system. This ordinance was read for the first time and held over, according to law, until the next meeting at the session of the council Tuesday night. The introduction was prepared for by 585 representative citizens and payers who signed the petition asking that the council call a special election on the water question within 60 days. Whole Council Present With all the councilmen present Tuesday night the water ordinance which has long agitated the city, was brought up and acted upon in the most formal manner which proved that the council was familiar with the technicalities and would allow no discrepancies to creep into the proceedings. City Clerk Bartlett reported that he had received petitions signed by 585 property owners which he had checked with the great register, and then certified that the documents "contained more than 10 per cent of the qualified electors of the district."

The next move was to introduce the ordinance calling the special election. This was done on a motion by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Maxwell, which carried without a dissenting vote. City Attorney Brady then read the ordinance, which states, in effect, that the water system shall be constructed to serve territory within the original city limits under the 1927 Improvement Act; that such system will be constructed from a bond issue of \$400,000, which will include all incidental expenses; that it shall be known as "Act of 1927 Improvement No. 1;" that the estimated cost of the physical work to construct a water producing, distributing and purifying system would be approximately \$381,000; and that the special election will be held September 25.

Mayor in Statement The last day for protests against the proposed improvement will be September 2, the ordinance provides. According to law the ordinance was then held over until the next regular meeting, which will be Tuesday night, August 19, when it will be formally adopted. Mayor John Dennis made the only statement during the proceedings, when he reviewed the history of the city's fight to obtain better and cheaper water from the company operating in the original city limits. "About a week or ten days ago," he said, "there was a petition circulated for the council, containing about 580 names, asking that the council defer action on the franchise proposal of the water company until after an election would be held by the people. Last year there was a good deal of talk about a publicly-owned water system." (Continued on Page 3)

Steel Worker Hurt By Electric Shock Arthur G. Radford, an employee at the Columbia Steel plant, came in contact with some high tension wires at the plant Tuesday afternoon and was knocked unconscious by the electricity. The pulmotor squad from the Torrance fire department was called but before they arrived he had recovered and was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for treatment. Radford, who lives at the National Hotel here, is reported to be recovering. CITY'S VALUATION REPORTED Council To Act on City Budget in Order To Set Tax Rate for Coming Year; Valuation Is \$25,887,575 In a letter addressed to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, H. A. Payne, county auditor, revealed the valuation figures for Torrance this week. According to Mr. Payne, the city has a total non-operative value of \$25,887,575, or an increase in valuation of \$3,421,995 over last year. The figures for 1929 were \$22,465,580, according to records at the city clerk's office. Mr. Payne's letter stated that the county auditor would like to know the various tax rates as compiled here by the city council as soon as the rates are established. This is in order that he may complete the combination tax rates for the fiscal year. To Act on Budget County Auditor Payne wrote that this information must be in the hands of the auditor before September 1, as that is the date when the County Board of Supervisors pass on all tax rates in the county. If Councilman Maxwell returns

INDUSTRIAL FIELD UNLIMITED Basic Industries Present Great Opportunity For City As Los Angeles Chamber Reviews Situation in District "With the increase in demand for pig iron in the Los Angeles district by foundries and rolling mills, the next blast furnace built in the west will be constructed in Los Angeles, utilizing Southern California iron ore, with possibility of bringing in ores from Lower California, other parts of Mexico, or water-borne ore from still other sources." This statement appears in the August number of "Industrial Los Angeles County," a monthly publication of the Industrial Department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, with which the Torrance Chamber of Commerce is closely allied. Tubing Plant Prospects It is a statement that is particularly of interest in this city where the iron industry, through the great plant of the Columbia Steel Company, is now centered. The possibility of other basic industries coming to Torrance depends, in a large measure, upon the exploitation of the success that the Columbia plant, a subsidiary

BILL THE BARBER SAYS IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO RETIRE OLD POLICEMEN AND ALSO SOME OF THE OLD GANGSTERS

K-K-Kid Pilot G-G-Gets License Guy Rowell said youngest glider aviator in U. S.: father and son planning to build sailplane Believed to be the youngest motorless pilot of motorless aircraft in the United States, he shall not transport persons nor property nor instruct students except in a licensed motorless aircraft. Guy's license expires July 15, 1931, but he can have it renewed if he still proves worthy. Young Rowell obtained the permit after flying for a year and three months under his father's instruction. The longest flight he has ever made was at Hollywood Riviera and extended about three miles. Mr. Rowell and his son are planning to build a sailplane similar to the ones used in Germany for long distance and duration flights. S-s-sail Like A B-b-bird Evidently a slight stutter is no (Continued on Page 3)

Riviera Tract To Get Illumination Because the Clifford F. Reid, Inc., subdividers are planning to install Marbelite light standards in front of their 540 acres at Hollywood Riviera, they wrote the city council this week asking for information as to the city's regulations and laws concerning ornamental street lighting systems. The council instructed City Engineer Leonard Tuesday night to reply to the company that the lights are paid from the city's general fund and that the city wants to know what number of lights are needed at the present time. This information is expected before the tax levy is made, in order that arrangements for the lighting system may be included in the 1930-31 budget.

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Taxes May Be Same City Attorney Brady pointed out last Tuesday night that the budget must be approved by the council before August 21 and published, according to law, by August 15. If Mr. Maxwell does not get back in time, the council will study the city's cost estimate for 1930-31 Wednesday, August 20, and act on it the following day. As soon as the budget is approved, then the two tax rates, one for the original city of Torrance or Tax District No. 1, and the other for the annexed territories, or Tax District No. 2, can be set. Mayor Dennis indicated that the taxes for Torrance for 1930-31 will probably be no higher than last year's cost.